

City Council Meeting Minutes

**April 21, 2020
City Hall, Council Chambers
749 Main Street
6:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Stolzmann called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken and the following members were present:

City Council: ***Mayor Ashley Stolzmann
Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Maloney
Councilmember Kyle Brown
Councilmember J. Caleb Dickinson
Councilmember Deborah Fahey
Councilmember Chris Leh
Councilmember Jeff Lipton***

Staff Present: ***Heather Balser, City Manager
Megan Davis, Deputy City Manager
Megan Pierce, Economic Vitality Director
Meredyth Muth, City Clerk***

Others Present: ***Kathleen Kelly, City Attorney***

Mayor Stolzmann noted because of the COVID-19 emergency the meeting is being held electronically. She gave information on how the meeting process will work and directions for those dialing in on how to participate when it is time for public comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Stolzmann called for changes to the agenda and hearing none she asked for a motion. Councilmember Leh moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Maloney. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Stolzmann called for changes to the consent agenda; hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Lipton moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Councilmember Lipton. All in favor.

- A. *Approval of Bills***
- B. *Approval of Minutes: March 31, 2020; April 7, 2020; April 14, 2020***
- C. *Approval of Resolution No. 33, Series 2020 – A Resolution Approving An Agreement with Utility Associates for Video Data Storage Systems***

COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL COMMENTS ON PERTINENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Stolzmann thanked City staff for their work during this emergency.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Balser noted the first quarter report from the Revitalization Commission was in the packet for Council to review.

City Manager Balser stated it has been a difficult decision but the current health crisis has affected City revenues and operations. To ensure the City's financial security, the City has furloughed 218 employees or 35 full-time equivalents. The furlough goes into effect Friday, April 24 and will continue through June 19. Decisions to recall staff or extend furloughs will be made by June 1.

REGULAR BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF PRESIDING MUNICIPAL JUDGE AND DEPUTY MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Mayor Stolzmann welcomed the new judges. She stated she is confident the judges will oversee a fair and equitable court system.

Clerk Muth swore in Judge Thrower as Presiding Municipal Judge. Judge Thrower then swore in Deputy Judges Rob Gunning and Karolyn Moore.

Judge Thrower thanked the Council for their support.

DISCUSSION/DIRECTION – COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR COVID-19

Deputy City Manager Davis stated the Council Communication reviews some of the impacts being reported to our human services partners and services available to community members during this emergency.

The City does not have a Human Services department or provide general human services or programming. Like many other cities, human services are provided by the county, as the county is the recipient of federal and state funding for this. Boulder County serves as the lead agency in working with community partners, including municipalities, to help those affected by COVID-19.

Boulder County has developed a comprehensive approach to assist county residents (including Louisville residents) in need of assistance due to COVID-19. We have learned that like others our community is not immune to the economic impacts this emergency is having on individuals and families.

She stated there has been a 300-400% increase in requests for access to County services. This includes access to Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program. Likewise the Sister Carmen Center tells staff the requests from Louisville families is up 300% for help with rent assistance, food assistance, and other resources. The County also tells staff that county-wide unemployment claims increased significantly in March.

Deputy City Manager Davis stated the senior meal site at the Recreation Center has seen an increase in demand for services as has Meals on Wheels. The meal site has modified services to respond to community need while meeting the public health order through curb-side delivery. They are providing both meals and bags of shelf-stable food to seniors. This need is likely to continue even if regulations are relaxed later this month. The Senior Center staff has secured an additional \$60,000 from the Area Agency on Aging to fund this. The Center is also completing welfare calls to check on seniors.

The City also provides funding for to the Utility Assistance Fund administered by the Sister Carmen Community Center. Earlier this year the City provided an additional \$5,000 and more funding is likely to be needed for the remainder of this year. The Sister Carmen Community Center is the Southeast Boulder County designated family resource center and comprehensive basic needs provider for the City of Louisville. They have requested an increase in funding due to the impacts on COVID-19. The requests for service from Louisville families have increased from 12% to nearly 20%.

Staff recommends the City continue to replenish the Utility Assistance fund in \$5,000 increments once the current funding has been allocated, at least through the end of the year. That can be reassessed in 2021 if needed.

Staff also recommends the City double the already approved \$9,000 FY2020 grant funding provided through the General Fund to Sister Carmen for a total grant of \$18,000. In addition, staff will request Sister Carmen provide regular updates to City staff regarding increased need.

Mayor Stolzmann noted the Council has received some public comments by email and those have been added to the public record.

Public Comments – None.

Councilmember Leh asked how the Utility Fund would be replenished under this recommendation. Deputy City Manager Davis stated that process is up to Council. Staff could come back to the Council every time the fund needs to be replenished or choose a specific amount to use each time.

Mayor Pro Tem Maloney stated the meal program is important and it is likely it will need to continue. He stated the Utility Assistance fund has been underutilized in recent years but that may change. He stated he supports the onetime \$5000 donation and recommended future payments be put on the Council's consent agenda for approval. He thinks additional payments need to be looked at from a big picture. These are important programs but must be looked at in conjunction with the City budget and declining revenue.

Councilmember Brown stated he supports a holistic package and this is a small start to what we should do to address the economic impacts for families. He would like to do as much as we can afford.

Councilmember Dickinson added his support for the programs noting they are critical to the community.

Councilmember Fahey agreed noting these services are critically important to support families in need.

Councilmember Leh thanked the volunteers in our community. He stated he supports funding these programs. He noted there are people in Louisville living tenuously and that needs to be remembered.

Councilmember Lipton stated this is a modest down payment for what is likely to be needed. We have good partners to provide services and they do a good job.

Mayor Pro Tem Maloney moved that the City give \$5000 to the Utility Assistance Fund at Sister Carmen and that when that needs to be replenished, subsequent funding be put on the Council's consent agenda for consideration; he also included approval for the additional \$9,000 for Sister Carmen in 2020; Councilmember Leh seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, AND IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ECONOMIC VITALITY COMMITTEE – next meeting scheduled for May 6

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mayor Pro Tem Maloney reported the Committee met today to review CIP carryforward for 2020 and they will be having a work session on April 24 to look at budget projections.

LEGAL REVIEW COMMITTEE – no report

UTILITY COMMITTEE – Meeting scheduled for early May

COLORADO COMMUNITIES FOR CLIMATE ACTION – Councilmember Fahey stated the group is waiting on the legislature reconvening to act on some legislation.

COMMUTING SOLUTIONS – no report

CONSORTIUM OF CITIES – no report

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION STREET FAIRE – Councilmember Lipton reported the Committee is interested in moving the event dates to later in the summer. Clearly there will be lots of changes this year due to uncertainties around COVID-19.

DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – Mayor Stolzmann stated they have been meeting electronically and looking at how their many partners for services will continue to serve those in need.

JOINT INTEREST COMMITTEES (SUPERIOR & LAFAYETTE) – no report

MAYORS & COMMISSIONERS COALITION – Mayor Stolzmann reported the group has been meeting to understand how best they can work together for COVID-19 responses.

METRO MAYORS CAUCUS – Mayor Stolzmann stated they met today with the governor and are working on best practices on how to work together and get funding from the Federal government.

REVITALIZATION COMMISSION – next meeting in May

XCEL ENERGY FUTURES – next meeting in May. Mayor Stolzmann stated Xcel is working on numbers to see if it can offer renewable energy to all Louisville accounts.

ADVANCED AGENDA

Councilmember Lipton would like discussion of how Council will conduct meetings in the future and how we conduct face to face meetings. He suggested the Legal Committee take this up.

Mayor Pro Tem Maloney would like to discuss the meeting schedule at the April 28 meeting.

ADJOURN

Members adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Ashley Stolzmann, Mayor

Meredyth Muth, City Clerk